Mutual Fund Asset Management Company Limited have been entrusted with the management of the corpus of NIF. 75% of the annual income will be used to finance selected social sector schemes, which promote education, health and employment. The residual 25% of the annual income of NIF will be used to meet the capital investment requirements of profitable and revivable PSUs.

A total amount of Rs. 1814.45 crores has been credited to the NIF as on date. For the first year of investment, an income payout of Rs. 84.81 crores has been received and credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Tax exemption on long term deposits

†2629. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that banks have urged for tax exemption on long term deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount recovered as tax on long term deposits *i.e.* deposits of five or more years by the banks in the country during 2605-2008, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has submitted that term deposits kept with Bank for a period of 5 years or more is eligible to get deduction under section 80C of the Income-tax Act, 1961. However, according to them, the Banks, as per the provisions of the Scheme can grant no loan against these deposits. Hence, liquidity is not available to the depositors which makes the scheme unattractive to the depositors. The IBA has thus proposed that lock-in-period for the deposit may be reduced from 5 years to 3 years to make it at par with other tax saving instruments such as ELSS and Mutual Funds. The Association has also proposed to grant loan against these deposits in order to provide liquidity to depositors and also to grant exemption from purview of TDS.

(c) Since no such data is maintained the details cannot be provided.

Reviving of disinvestment programme

2630. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to kickstart the stalled disinvestment programme of Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs);

(b) if so, what is Government's estimated amount of money to be generated from such PSUs during 2009-10 and how the funds collected will be utilized; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) how many PSUs are at present operational and out of which how many companies are profit/loss-making and number of such PSUs that cannot be revived and in which net worth is zero?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government is following consistent policy on disinvestment. The policy of the Government is to develop people-ownership of public sector undertakings while ensuring that Government equity does not fall below 51% and that Government retains the management control of the company.

(b) It is not feasible to estimate the realization as the same would depend on various factors such as the percentage of equity to be disinvested, the prevalent market conditions, the time of actual disinvestment etc.

(c) As per Public Enterprises Survey 2007-08, as on 31.3.2008 214 Central Public Sector Enterprises are in operation and out of this 160 earned profits, 53 incurred losses and 55 had negative networth.

More accessibility to banks for minorities

2631. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to make the banks more accessible to the minorities; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) In order to strengthen credit flow to the Minority Communities, the Scheduled Commercial Banks including PSBs have been advised by the Reserve Bank of India, *inter-alia*, the following:

(i) To set up a Special Cell to be headed by a Deputy General Manager/Assistant General Manager or any other similar rank who should function as a 'Nodal Officer';

(ii) The Lead Bank in each of the Minority Concentration Districts should have an officer to exclusively look after the problems regarding the credit flow to minority communities;

(iii) The convener banks of the District Consultative Committees (DCCs) and the State Level Bankers Committees (SLBCs) should ensure that steps are taken to facilitate the flow of credit to the minority communities and the progress made in this regard is reviewed regularly at their meetings;

(iv) The Lead Banks functioning in the identified districts should organize Entrepreneur Development Programmes so that the members of the minority communities in these areas are enabled to derive the benefit of various programmes being financed by the banks.

In addition to above the Government has advised the PSBs, *inter-alia*, the following.